Implementation of projects by Visakhapatnam Port

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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :.

(a) whether several schemes, each involving an investment of over Rs. 5 crores, being implemented by Visakhapatnam Port, are facing delays due to a variety of factors;

(b) if so, the number of the projects at present being looked after by the different agencies for execution;

(c) whether the Port Authorities are finding it difficult to put pressure on these agencies to expedite the works;

(d) it so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being considered to implement these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (e) Out of the 10 projects costing Rs. 5 crores and above which are currently under implementation in the Visakhapatnam Port, four projects ar facing delays in completion. Out of these four, three projects are with Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. which could not be completed within the stipulated time limit mainly due to the following reason :—

(i) Lack of working capital with Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

(ii) Delay in finalization of crane and main engine.

(iii) Occupation of covered building dock by a Sub-marine unde refit for Indian Navy.

(iv) Delay in finalization of basic drawings.

The fourth project is being implemented by the Cochin Shipyard Ltd. Both the firms *viz.* Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. and Cochin Shipyard Ltd. are Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Shipping. Visakhapatnam Port Trust is reviewing the progress of implementation of these projects closely and pursuing the matter with these firms vigorously for expeditious completion of the projects.